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25 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with AECASSOWARY/2 in Washington on 24 April 1961

1. The principal reason for AECASSOWARY/2's trip to Washington was final consideration of the AECASSOWARY/39 operation, particularly of the text of the recruitment letter to be carried in by AECASSOWARY/43. Several minor alterations were made in the letter, and other aspects of the operation were discussed and resolved. AECASSOWARY/2 was not completely satisfied with the trigger letter and asked for time to consider other explanations to be given by AECASSOWARY/43 to the target so that the latter can locate the letter in the concealment device. AECASSOWARY/2 had no news on the proposal to organize a Shevchenko Centennial Chorus in the United States and send it to the Ukraine in the late spring or early summer. He has tried the idea out with Jarema and Joe Lesawyer, who are prominent personalities in the emigration. They registered interest but have been either unwilling or unable to get things moving. AECASSOWARY/2 plans to meet Jarema again near the end of the month and to prod him into action at that time.

2. AECASSOWARY/2 was briefed on the AECASSOWARY/43 operation being run by AECASSOWARY/29 out of Frankfurt.

3. AECASSOWARY/2 submitted a written report in Ukrainian on the results of the contact operation in New York recently involving several Soviet delegates to a metallurgical institute. AECASSOWARY/2 received his information from a Ukrainian emigre engineer from Canada. Unfortunately, the report was an exceptionally poor one for several reasons, illness and old age among them. At first glance the report appears to have little or no value, despite the fact that the AECASSOWARY/1 source talked to the most prominent of the Soviet delegates for several hours on end and on several occasions. We shall attempt to stimulate with leading questions from Requirements Branch to obtain any latent information not previously acquired.

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4. AECASSOWARY/2 informed us that the AECASSOWARY/1 treasurer and financial wizard is investigating retirement plans with the help of various financial institutions in New York and will soon have his recommendations ready for our approval.

5. AECASSOWARY/2 reported that he obtained from a contact of rather long standing in the Ukraine another covert letter, this time hidden in the binding of a book. The sender, ~~Mikhail~~ OLYNYK, is a distant relative of AECASSOWARY/2 on his wife's side and is in contact with AECASSOWARY/2's father in the Ukraine. This case is an extremely complicated matter and smells strongly of Soviet provocation. In the letter, a copy of which will be provided by AECASSOWARY/2 and translated, OLYNYK suggests eventual contact between AECASSOWARY/2 and OLYNYK's son-in-law, who travels abroad on a Soviet commercial vessel. OLYNYK did not have any suggestions as to how to arrange such a contact. He did, however, suggest that AECASSOWARY/2 contact the son-in-law and try to recruit the latter as a contact with OLYNYK himself. In this form the suggestion makes little sense because OLYNYK did not mention his son-in-law's name, the ship on which he travels, or its itinerary. We shall give further consideration to this matter when we have the translation of the OLYNYK letter.

6. AECASSOWARY/2 reported that contacts of his in Australia have gotten in touch with a Soviet national, the lead to whom was provided by Headquarters. The Soviet, who is a scientist on temporary assignment in Australia for six months, has been met and talked to on several occasions. He thus far gives no indication of vulnerability and seems satisfied with the Soviet system, which has served him well and which he serves well. Nevertheless, he does seem to have considerable freedom of movement and can be approached. We are expecting a translated copy of the report from Australia by way of AECASSOWARY/2. At this point we shall set up a 201 and maintain a regular account of the contact. This operation, if it can be called that, is extremely far away both in distance and responsiveness. We shall not spend much time on it unless indication is given of a dramatic turn of events, promising perhaps some kind of useful contact. Unless and until this happens, we shall content ourselves with a general anti-Communist, pro-Ukrainian message.

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